

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendment to Claim 1 and newly-added Claims 10-18 are supported by the specification, particularly page 28. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-18 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a negative radiation-sensitive resin composition comprising (A) a polymer containing structural units represented by formula (1) and/or formula (2), (B) a compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated double bond, and (C) a radiation-sensitive radical polymerization initiator. See Claim 1. An important feature is that initiator (C) is at least one of acylphosphine oxides, 2,2-dimethoxyl-1,2-diphenylethane-1-one, benzyl dimethyl ketal, benzyl- β -methoxyethyl acetal, 1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione-2-(o-ethoxycarbonyl) oxime and 2,2'-bis(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4,5,4',5'-tetraphenyl-1-2'-bisimidazole. As described in the specification, using the claimed composition, the bottom of a radiation-sensitive resin film formed with the composition is sufficiently cured, even when the film thickness is greater than 50 μm .

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) based on Shimizu, Komano, Danielson et al., Konica Corp. and Sasa et al. as set forth at paragraphs 2-9 of the Office Action are respectfully traversed. None of the references disclose or suggest the use of the specified radiation-sensitive radical polymerization initiator (C) of the claimed negative radiation-sensitive resin composition. For that reason, those references, alone or in combination, cannot suggest that the bottom of a radiation-sensitive resin film formed with the composition is sufficiently cured, even when the film thickness is greater than 50 μm .

Application No. 10/593,972
Reply to Office Action of

In view of the foregoing, the claimed composition is neither anticipated by nor obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

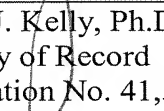
Respectfully submitted,

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